

NARFE Chapter 1192
April 5, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes
Corrected

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order just after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie asked members to silence all electronic devices, called for a moment of silence to remember our military and those members who have passed, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed 25 members and 5 guests: Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers and today's chapter program; Mary Lou Anderson (who joined at the meeting); Roger Pratt, husband of Terese Pratt; and Tan Fraser, a NARFE national member and guest of Darleen Wall. Next, Lorie introduced the chapter's board members.

REMINDER: BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/HANDOUTS, ETC.

Chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms and/or publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs *President Lorie Bennett.*

- Mary Binder provided highlights from the March 12-15 NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C. Nancy Crosby and Pat Turner also attended.
 - More than 300 NARFE members attended with more than half being "first-timers."
 - NARFE President Richard Thissen said, "Last year was spring training; this year is the regular season." NARFE is concerned for both current and retired federal employees. NARFE believes the FY 18 budget will be "the biggest threat, the biggest fight in decades."
 - NARFE's top concerns are: an increase in FEHBP premiums; an increase in retirement contributions to 6 percent across the board; a decrease in the G Fund rate; and, postal reform. Other high priorities are: WEP; GPO; the Medicare Part B "hold harmless" provision; and, the increase in long-term care premiums.
 - While the snowstorm that came through the area during the conference impacted some speakers, conference attendees still heard from a number of congressional leaders who are strong supporters of federal employees. NARFE asked the speakers to remain political but nonpartisan. Some had an easier time than others following this guideline.
 - Regarding the importance of staying engaged with elected officials, one speaker said it is important to "show up, be visible and be prepared with facts and stories" when meeting with elected officials. He further said, "We have a government by the majority who show up."
 - Mary had a packet with informational handouts for each member that had the same material provided to elected officials/their staffs during visits on Capitol Hill. More such information is on the NARFE website.
- Scammers – a big issue at the moment. Lorie and Nancy provided examples of what NARFE officers are currently experiencing – both at the national office, federations and chapters, e.g., requests to transfer money. Both suggested using the "delete" key on your computer and being very careful when opening emails. Also, don't take calls from unknown sources. Bottom line, be alert! Nancy also asked any member concerned about having their email used for receiving the chapter newsletter and/or other correspondence to contact her.
- For the December chapter meeting, the board is looking for program suggestions. Please provide them to Lorie, Mary or Nancy.
- Hospitality – no report.

- Service Office – no report.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner*. No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams*. No report.

Director at Large *Liz Bowers*. No report.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart*. No report.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of February 28, \$11,325.05. March receipts were \$542.55 and disbursements, \$530.10, leaving a balance of \$11,337.50. Projected obligations are \$2,340.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,997.50.
- The annual audit of the chapter's 2016 financial records scheduled for February has been rescheduled for April 14. One of the "auditors" was ill in February.
- Nancy shared that the chapter had budgeted \$1,500 for conferences. Her expenses for the March Legislative Training Conference were covered by the federation in her position as the federation president. While the federation was providing \$250 to each federation member who attended the conference, Nancy suggested Mary and Pat, the other 2 chapter attendees at the conference, be given \$500/each from the chapter's budgeted amount to help offset their costs, which were around \$1,600. Faye Vlieger moved to provide \$500 each to Mary and Nancy; Bob Stewart seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- **Monies collected at the March meeting** Luncheon, \$405; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$32; NARFE-PAC, \$124; Newsletter, \$3; 50/50 Drawing, \$32/\$16 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's).

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder*.

- May/June newsletter – should be out to members by the end of April.
- April 1 – Veterans Service Fair, CBC, hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-4). The chapter had been asked to have a table. Mary, and Lorie and Leon Bennett staffed the table. Mary said that besides talking with veterans, it was also a good opportunity to network with area providers. Mary Lou Anderson, a guest at today's meeting, is a retired pharmacist from the VA and the wife of a veteran Mary said she talked with at the fair.
- April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest deadline for photo entries. There was a handout on the back table with details.
- April 28 – NARFE scholarship program applications are due. Informational brochures were on the back table.
- June 8 – the annual Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The chapter will again have a table with NARFE and chapter information.
- 2017 Tri-Cities visitor's guides were on each table. The chapter is referenced on page 75.
- Sunshine report:
 - Condolence card sent to member Dor Collado on the passing of his mother.
 - Former members Marie Delsing and Chris Emmons both passed away recently.
 - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing "a little sunshine."**

WSFC District V VP *Mary Binder*.

- March 2 WSFC EB meeting – minutes are posted on the federation website. Nancy highlighted a change the board approved – providing free second-year membership to new members who renew their membership after the first year. With only about a 10-percent first-year renewal rate, the board is hoping this will encourage more new members to renew.
- June 9-10 – Region IX Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. **[To note:** The training is especially targeted for newer NARFE members, but all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.] The federation is paying the \$65 registration fee for all federation members who attend. The fee includes the dinner on June 9. As chapter

members do not have to travel and/or stay in a hotel, this means the conference is free to our chapter members. Nancy had registration forms at the meeting.

- May 2018 – the next WSFC convention/conference. It will be in Spokane. Dates and location still to be determined.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Mary showed members a copy of the 2017/2018 NARFE congressional directory. She said it is compiled especially for NARFE and is a good reference. Cost is \$20; order coupons are in the *narfe* magazines. Besides Mary having a copy, there is one at the chapter's NARFE Service Office in the Federal Building, Richland.
- At the state level:
 - Much is still happening in the state legislature with the budget a top priority. April 23 is the last day for the current legislative session; an extension is expected.
 - Department of Homeland Security has given the state an extension until June 6 to enforce the federal requirement for state driver's license and ID card changes to allow travelers to fly domestically. The department granted the extension as the state is working toward compliance, e.g., a bill has cleared the senate and is awaiting a house committee vote. January 22, 2018 is the implementation date for states that are not in compliance and do not have an extension; for those with an extension, the date is October 21, 2020.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- March chapter meeting donations – \$11. Bill received an additional \$85 during the month for a March total of \$96. There is currently \$40.50 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Note: a small amount is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- For the federation Alzheimer's year, which started May 1, the chapter has raised \$2,248. With the fiscal year ending April 30, this is the last call for donations for this year.
- Bill shared some statistical information – in Washington State, Alzheimer's is the third leading cause of deaths. The state ranks third nationally in deaths from Alzheimer's. In 2014 there were 3,344 deaths in the state attributed to Alzheimer's.
- Currently, there are about 110,000 state residents 65/older with Alzheimer's. By 2020, that number is projected to go to 120,000; and by 2015, to 140,000.

NARFE-PAC Chairman *Bob Stewart.*

- Bob provided members a general overview of NARFE's Legislative Department, including NARFE-PAC. He reminded members that NARFE is political but non-partisan. During the 2015-2016 congressional cycle, \$813,000 in NARFE-PAC contributions were distributed to candidates and the major political parties congressional committees. During the cycle, NARFE had a 92-percent win rate for the candidates that received NARFE-PAC funds.
- NARFE's goal for the 2017-2018 congressional cycle is to raise \$1.5 million in PAC funds and disburse \$1 million.
- March contributions at the chapter meeting – \$39.

Membership Chairman *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna reported that she has ordered a supply of the updated membership brochures. She recommended that all members carry an application with them as one never knows when they'll meet a prospective member.
- Consider giving a prospective member a gift membership.
- Johanna has the new dues withholding forms for anyone wanting to enroll.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS Health fairs will be in July. Date should be available at the May meeting.

Drawings Free lunch: Larry Williams; 50/50 drawing, Vicki Ravely, \$32 collected/\$16 awarded (donated to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

April Birthdays John Cavanaugh.

April Anniversaries Jim/Johanna Caylor (41 years).

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, April 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, May 3, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

May Chapter Meeting Program: Stephanie Button, administrative director, is scheduled to give an update on the East Benton County Historical Museum. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Closing Remarks: President Lorie wished everyone a Happy Easter or Happy Passover. She also encouraged members to continue to stay informed as much is going on right now.

MEETING CLOSED: 12:57 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary

Meeting Program Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, returned for their annual chapter visit to provide an update on the world of antiques and to appraise items members and guests brought. The Maurers have been doing these presentations for the chapter for more than 10 years. Johanna Caylor contacted them years ago regarding a James Dean poster she had. She then asked them to be the featured program at a chapter meeting – a first for the Maurers. With their busy schedules, they can no longer do these type programs; however, as our NARFE chapter was their first such presentation, they have continued to be with us each year.

Highlights and reminders/tips from this year:

- To determine if an item is porcelain/bone china, shine a light on it/in it. If light comes through, it is porcelain/bone china.
- Hand painting porcelain was a way for ladies to make money at one point.
- Do not store items in plastic.
- For folded items, recommend refolding a different way every couple of years. Rolling would be good, too, but ensure the item is not rolled on cardboard. Putting a cloth on a cardboard roll first and then the item would work.
- Foam core vs. cardboard is better for backing pictures in a frame as cardboard has acid.
- Artwork from "unlisted artists" is usually appraised based on "decorative value."
- There has to be a market for an item for it to have value.
- Today's collectors want something useful vs. a dust collector.
- Paper/paper items are the first things to go when estates are being worked. Better to assume all paper/paper items have value until someone tells you otherwise.
- Postcards – do not toss! They are highly collectible. A transition period was 1907/1908. Prior to then, writing could only be on the front. After that there was the "divided back," where half was for a message and half for the address.
- Items marked "NIPPON" were most likely made in Japan between 1891 and 1923. In 1891, the U.S. adopted new import laws that included having items identified with the country of origin. In 1923 the verbiage was clarified regarding an item's country of origin, e.g., Made in Japan vs. NIPPON.
- The value of many items has dropped over the past few years; slowly, some types of items are again starting to increase in value.

- Old books – typically about \$1/each. Reminder! Look through all books. Things to look for – does the book have a jacket; is it autographed; is it dedicated to someone and/or have some hand-done artwork?
- Per Terry, at today's meeting there was "the most unusual item ever brought to a NARFE meeting" they've attended – a walrus penis bone. Terry said there is a market for these and said they can be found on websites. He discussed various uses for this bone. He also emphasized that it was bone and not ivory. Terry discussed the challenges of trying to sell anything that is ivory under the current U.S. laws. **(POC: Mary Binder)**